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SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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VOL. 2. NO. 41 WASHINGTON D. C., JANUARY 11, 1913. WHOLE NO. 93

PRES. GOMPERS RESOLUTELY STANDS BEHIND IRON WORKERS' ORGANIZATION

Washington, Jan. 11.—President Gompers appeared before a subcommittee of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday, January 6, for the purpose of advocating the favorable report of the Clayton Injunction Limitation Bill by the full Judiciary Committee. This bill passed the House at the last session of Congress, and was reported favorably by the Judiciary committee and then referred to a subcommittee. President Gompers embraced the opportunity presented to not only answer statements which had previously been made by those hostile to the organizations of labor, but to make some caustic comments of his own on the attitude of the organized labor movement on the McNamara case and the fair trial and conviction of officials and members of the Structural Iron Workers for which offense they pleaded guilty. The statements are obvious, but will be incorporated in the printed hearings before the subcommittee and also published in the next issue of the American Federationist. President Gompers spoke with vigor and feeling, and his auditors were wrapped in their attention, even the staid Senators being plainly impressed with the earnestness of the speaker and his grasp of the human equation, but following excerpts present the tenor of the entire address:

"With the understanding mind and the spirit taught by the teacher of old who said, 'Let him who is without sin cast the first stone,' I would have you consider that men now pilloried by public opinion and adjudged by the court guilty of crimes against society and humanity, I would have you ponder how many of the same people professing to believe in the brotherhood of man and the gospel of love, men, American citizens, came to look upon violence, dynamite, terror, as the only defense left to them against the grinding oppression upon those by those controlling hours, wages, and conditions of work. That is the whole charge against society.

"There are many millions upon the structural iron workers, not alone the men adjudged guilty, but every member of their union, condemned by this committee; many ready to wrap the robes of saintly justice around them, and regard themselves half an hour withdraw from these men every good and uplifting influence and to cast them out to the mercy of their interest might profit by their helplessness.

"And so to these who condemn ruthlessness and deny mercy—are they the men who have fought the fight in the world of men and conquered without blemish to themselves? Are they men who have looked out of their eyes and told, who have felt or know the powers pitted against the weaker elements, the cruelty, the greed, the selfishness and heartlessness of the world of profits, where men six-cent climbing over the bodies upon those who have struck down and defeated? Do these self-appointed censors so positive and assured of their own virtue that they have not to judge fellow-men, really know this world of toil and fight; have they themselves been a part of its struggles, its hopes, its fears?

"These men who are accused of doing these grievous wrongs, of wanton and unjustifiable defiance, of unreasonable, thereby inflicting upon all the workers trouble and heartrending suffering, what manner of men are they? What is their life? Turn to the great cities whose growth has been one of the striking characteristics of the past sixty years. In those cities marvelous structures seem to stretch upward, almost touching the cloudland, expressing the highest ambitions ever manifested in engineering, well-nigh unbelievable in conception and execution, reaching upward twenty, thirty—then, more than fifty-stories, and downward into the depths of the earth. Or turn to the mighty bridges spanning half-mile rivers, spanning rivers and chasms, that the forces of civilization may conquer every barrier—the bridges the great engineering achievements in the history of mankind, and in the lone places of the earth. Watch one of these constructions in the making. Watch the men in their action as it rises skyward, the frame about which building materials are to be placed, and fashioned in the girders and separate pieces are lifted into position, watch the workers moving about in narrow place, boldly poised on perilous, dangerous heights, securing bolts and rivets. Watch the human worker as he stands on an iron sketon of building, three, four, five hundred feet above the security and he lifts his head upward—there is nothing between him and the vast, have-nought of the heavens. As he looks out upon the city, the handiwork of his craft and his fellow-workers, and down, down, to the narrow passageways below, there they, speckllke men moving to and fro, like ants occupied with their human and business. Then ponder well—what manner of man is this builder of our modern civilization? He lives a bold, open life; his very business is danger and conquest.

"In referring to the American Bridge Company, which alone was unable to destroy the organization of Structural Iron Workers, the story of how the National Erectors' Association, under the leadership of the most implacable foe, the National Manufacturers' Association, backed by the United States Steel Corporation, declared war to a finish upon the Structural Iron Workers' Union, was graphically portrayed, concluding the narrative as follows:

"For six years the fight went on. All of the forces of organized society were used against labor. The subtle minds were scheming and plotting that legal authority and practice might be used to destroy labor men. You say that these men resorted to forbidden methods of violence, and you inflicted them. You condemn their methods of fighting as elemental, brutal. Of any of those who are guilty, the condemnation is true; but I ask you, were the methods used by the employers less deadly to humanity and freedom? Do you think that one side can play with the forces of injustice and tyranny and not lead to a defensive move on the part of the other? Each will protect his own interests, and society also do that for him. Indeed, our very social organization seems to do this. Take, for instance, the case of a fair trial. Society understand. Even the judge who tried the case, smugly assured of personal irresponsibility, fatuously declared that—

"The evidence in this case will convince any impartial person that government by injunction is infinitely to be preferred to government by violence.'

"The worthy judge had blindly chanced upon one of the causes, but had failed to realize causal relationship. The words to him were simply a conventional epigram. He does not know that there is a law of life as fixed and immutable as the law of gravitation; of attraction and repulsion; a law of life which meets tyranny and injustice with resistance. The inaptness and the unpardonable character of this utterance of the judge—discloses how far adrift outside of the case he was, and how far another slap at labor. If ever the time shall come (and it is to be hoped and work that it never shall come) when government by dynamite shall be attempted, it will have its birth because the theory and policy upon which is based government by injunction—personal government foisted upon our people instead of a government by law.

"Just what is the social responsibility of the alleged crimes, the trial, and the conviction? Whether or not there was a conspiracy to do violence by the labor men, is there any doubt that there was a conspiracy by 'big business' to disrupt organized labor? Assuming for the sake of the argument, that the convicted men are guilty—and I earnestly trust that their appeals may be successful and upon a new trial their innocence may be demonstrated—are the monster industrial corporations and hostile employers' associations guiltless of conspiracy to destroy the labor organizations, thereby rendering the workers helpless to the organizing process in which so many industries abound. Let me recall to your memories that the United States Steel Corporation's executive committee on June 17, 1901, six weeks after the corporation was organized, resolved to instruct the president of that corporation was instructed to instruct the presidents of subsidiary companies to enforce, etc. It is as follows:

"That we are unalterably opposed to any extension of union labor, and will withdraw subsidiary companies to take firm position when these questions come up, and say that they are willing to operate independent of labor, and will defend their position; that they favor any extension of unions in mills where they do not now exist, provided such action would be to prevent trouble, and that they promptly report and confer with this corporation."

President Gompers referred to the interview given out by Walter Drew, the attorney for the National Erectors' Association, subsequent to the decision of the Indianapolis trial. Drew is reported to have made the following statement:

"Now that the dynamiters have been found guilty, the proper question is, what is to be done to stamp out can Federation of Labor going to do?

"This union, the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, is a member of the American Federation of Labor. Frank M. Ryan is one of the members of the Executive Council of the Federation by virtue of his office as president of the union.

"The American Federation of Labor, with the exception of one, has been found guilty of conspiracy. Is the American Federation of Labor going to expel this union in its membership? Does the Federation think of the duty devolved upon it by having a member of its Executive Council convicted in this fashion?

In answer to that statement, President Gompers, in consultation with the executive council, at once by silence which permitted the committee and the spectators to absorb every inflection, closed his address with these words:

"With organized labor repudiate the Structural Iron Workers' Unions and leave them helpless and at the mercy of organized capital and insatiable, uncurbed greed for power? Not if we can prevent it. Not while the spirit of the pharisaical and unmerciful god, but those with the love of humanity in their hearts pray and in the pledge to sustain and strengthen the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers' Union.

"Men cannot hold a place of responsibility and trust; men cannot be compelled to exert all their influence for the welfare of those intrusted to their keeping without incurring opposition and encountering temptations to betray the trust. If they will not betray the trust, or betray, they would do aught but give the best that is in them to the service of the trust and the interests intrusted to him, in order to secure his own standing, his own advancement, his self-respect and confidence respect. Though detectives may hound us, though injunctions be hurled at us, though conspiracy and indictments assail us from all sides, yet will we fight on for the liberty and betterment of those who do the world's work, even at the price of the highest sacrifice that they, their blood and bodies—yea, verily, with their very souls. That is the spirit that would cause the wretched man not fear criticism and opposition, prosecution or persecution.

"Many conspiracies have been formed, many found guilty of dynamite conspiracy, none feel the terrible consequences of the Indianapolis trial more keenly than the men of organized labor. There have been added heartache and sorrow to our already heavy burdens. The mine accusations and condemnations, and the penalties alone—upon them and all workingmen fall the suffering and hardship. That is what the conspiracy of organized capital—the conspiracy to murder the liberty of the workers, to destroy the very foundations of government by which they have bettered their condition, to leave them bound hand and foot to the mercy of organized greed—is not such a conspiracy sufficiently dastardly to incur some odium? Should the conspirators, with their hands dripping with the blood of men's ambitions, happiness, liberty, be accorded nothing but honor, power, respectability? Should they be allowed to continue to assassinate the powers of government, the administration of justice until the oppressed find the burden more than they can bear, and then, in their madness, rise in revolution? Otherwise it is to seek social justice while yet we may. The labor movement is the protest against the usurpation —government by injunction, lawless, autocratic, irresponsible exercise of governmental authority, according privileges to the strong and denying justice to the weak.

TO INFORM DELEGATES.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 11.—At a recent session of the Springfield central body, the delegate to the American Federation of Labor convention at Rochester made his report. American Federation of Labor Delegate Morris, who holds the position of secretary of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, recommended that this central body procure the printed proceedings of the convention and set aside a portion of the time of each meeting for the reading of the same, continuing this programme until the entire proceedings have been read before the delegates and the central body. This suggestion was concurred in, and a motion was made to purchase 100 copies and the chair authorized to appoint a reading clerk for this work. It will require about four months to complete the reading in the time allotted each meeting night in which to devote to this educational feature.

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 11.—The Boot and Shoe Workers' Union of this city has just made a notable achievement. For a number of years the union has been in agreement with one of the large shoe manufacturers, but the cutters employed at the other factories, with a few exceptions, have remained outside the union. This fact was a deterrent to the activities of the union, and a campaign was inaugurated some months ago to bring into the union the non-union cutters. This campaign has been successful and about 85 per cent of all the cutters in this city have affiliated themselves with the local union. Following the strengthening of the organization a wage schedule of wages was agreed on and presented to several manufacturers of the city. Negotiations were then commenced, and, as a result, the manufacturers, with one exception, agreed to pay the scale of prices asked by the union. In this one exception a strike was called, which is still on foot to-day, when the demands of the union were conceded. As the net result of these efforts a minimum wage scale of $15.50 per week on fine work and $13 on the cheap grades has been established, and every shop under the jurisdiction of the union is a member of the union or not, has secured an increase in wages ranging from $1.50 to $3 per week. It is stated that efforts will now be made to organize the shoe cutters in the shops outside of Milwaukee, thus increasing the scope of influence of the boot and shoe workers in what is generally called the Northwest.

A. F. OF L. APPEAL.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The American Federation of Labor, through its attorneys, has filed in the District Court of Appeals a brief, setting forth numerous reasons why the finding and judgment in the lower court in the contempt cases should be set aside. This is the second appeal which the Federation of Labor has taken from the judgment of the District Supreme Court on the same question. In the former appeal the case went to the Supreme Court of the United States and the District courts were reversed. The decree of injunction which is to have been violated was signed by Justice Gould December 3, 1907, whereas the contempt proceeding was not instituted until May, 1911. The points upon which the appeal is taken are numerous, alleging seventeen errors, and also that there was a lapse of three years between the time of the violation and the institution of the contempt proceedings. The "committee of prosecutors," which was appointed by Attorney-General Wickersham, is also named in the brief filed.

JOHN MITCHELL IN FLORIDA.

Jacksonville, Jan. 11.—John Mitchell, second vice president of the American Federation of Labor, who is achieving success as a platform speaker, delivered an address in this city on the evening of January 8, under the auspices of the Central Trades and Labor Council. John Mitchell is a stalwart trade unionist and has been a member of the local union history and present-day union activity, coupled with his wide experience, will enable him to interest the people of this much sought to present the aims and objects of the organized workmen of the country.

AGREEMENT REACHED.

Houston, Tex., Jan. 11.—It is announced that no strike will take place on the Texas & Pacific railroad lines. An agreement has been reached between the company and the conductors and trainmen, but the terms have not been made public. United States Labor Commissioner Neill has been here assisting in negotiations which brought about a settlement.

MAKING A GREAT FIGHT

Erie, Pa., Jan. 11.—The strike of moulders and coremakers in this city is still on and the ranks of the strikers are being augmented daily. Efforts were made by the owners of the foundries in this city to destroy the Molders' Union, but when any employer or combination of employers endeavor to eliminate from the industrial world the Molders' Union, it undertakes a fight to the finish as yet been approached, even within wireless distance of success. Flattering inducements have been offered members of the local union to return to work, but these tempting offers have thus flatly refused. The molders demand only a fair wage and reasonable hours. Since the inauguration of the strike the Union has grown prodigiously and is fast approaching the 1,000 mark. The International Molders' Union is behind the contest, both with its influence and finances. This contest will be a memorable one, and, aside from that, has awakened into activity the other organizations of labor in this city to the point that greater interest is now being taken in union affairs than for a long period.

APPOINTEES ON THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION ARE PROTESTED

Washington, Jan. 11.—Immediately subsequent to the appointment of nine members by President Taft to serve on the Industrial Relations Commission, the commission authorized by Congress to inquire into the various phases of industrial conditions, a protest was filed against the appointees by the industrial relations committee of the American Federation of Labor and Social Service. In constituting the Commission on the Church and Social Service, President Wilson with the reading the commission, President Taft transmitted his appointments to the Senate for confirmation. Accompanying the communication referred by the Senate to the Committee on Education and Labor, and to this committee the protests were submitted. The letter also was sent out announcing the protesting action to the members of the Federal Council of the Commission on the Church and Social Service, and requesting that letters and telegrams be addressed to members of the Senate, urging that the appointees be not confirmed.

Charles S. Macfarland, secretary of the Commission on the Church and Social Service, stated in his communication transmitting the action of the Industrial Relations committee to the Federal Council above mentioned, that the industrial relations committee was unanimous in its disapproval of the appointees. It was asserted that "the appointees are not only largely unknown and without adequate weight, but the commission as proposed by President Taft does not contain a woman, a social worker, or an economic student in any true sense of the words."

Considerable feeling has been engendered by the action of the Federal Council of Churches in the Commission of the Church and Social Service, in that the wording of the protest, in substance, asserts that the appointees representing organized labor "are not only largely unknown and without adequate weight, but are not social workers or economic students in any true sense of the words."

The accusation falls within the category of arrogance. The organized labor movement is the only institution that deals in the concrete with the social problems of the day. "Economic students" in the trade unions may be found outside of the superficial meaning signifying that they are the possessors of university or college degrees, but the knowledge accompanied by these are far more important and far-reaching than the combined achievements of theoretical economic students.

Letters have been transmitted to Secretary Macfarland severely criticising the position taken by the industrial relations committee in regard to the appointments. In consequence thereof Secretary Macfarland, in answering a number of these letters, has addressed a letter, according to his interpretation, the industrial relations committee as an opposition to the appointees representing organized labor in drafting the protest. Other letters, however, from individual members of the committee take a different view, vigorously assert that the indictment against all the appointees on the Industrial Relations Commission is unjustified, and that no single member of the committee condemns in plain terms all officials of the American Federation of Labor and the officers of Labor.

The presumptuousness of some members of the protesting committee in their attitude toward the appointees representing organized labor is apparent in the unconscious self-condemnation of the day, in that it is easily discernible that some of the protestants, at least, are those who are the real exploiters. The appointees are all the economic acumen, and none but they are fitted to carry forward the work of meeting and solving the social problems of our day.

In connection with this subject, an incident of recent occurrence is apropos. John B. Andrews, secretary of the American Association of Labor Legislation, is one of the leading protestants against the confirmation of the commission. A few days ago Mr. Andrews, in a letter to President Gompers, resigned (which Mr. Gompers) had been re-elected vice president of the American Association for Labor Legislation. To this letter President Gompers states in succinct and clear language his attitude in the premises. The letter follows:

Washington, D. C., Jan. 3, 1913.

Mr. John B. Andrews, Secretary, American Association of Labor Legislation, 131 East Twenty-third Street, New York City:

Dear Sir—Your favor of January 2 received, in which you notify me of my re-election as vice president of the American Association for Labor Legislation, at the annual meeting in Boston, December 28, 1912. I am glad to accept the position, and will serve as best I can.

But I cannot fail to reflect upon the peculiar position presented, in that you and several of our associates should have entered protest against the two representatives of labor who were appointed by Congress to be appointed by the President on the Industrial Relations Commission, and confirmed by the Senate, as a cause of unrest among the working people of our country, and to inquire into the relations between workmen and employers—a protest against two men who have made a life study, not as dilettantes, but who have given more than thirty years of their time to dealing with every-day problem of the relations between workmen and their employers.

In all of the years of my long experience in the labor movement, whenever any professor, or student, or so-called social worker, many of whom have Ph. D. and other titles, desired any real information regarding labor and labor conditions they have invariably applied to the men whom your association characterizes as having little weight, and as representing little, the actual workers of economics.

Of course, you know that the Rev. Mr. Macfarland has issued a circular letter asking the recipients to protest against the appointment. It may not be unnecessary to call to your mind a sentence or two of Mr. Macfarland's address to the delegates at the Atlanta, Ga., convention of the American Federation of Labor. After stating that he was writing to his wife every night his impressions of the day's proceedings and of the men with participated in them at the convention, he said:

"This is an inborn meeting, vibrant with earnest serious and solemn tasks. I like its profoundly ordered ways and measures.

"Old Samuel Gompers (the descriptive adjective, Mr. President, is in the nature of a term of affection, and relates to your length of service rather than to the number of your years), who has been for years, and has been the leading actor in the Old Testament story of the Prophet Daniel, that story would have been the same. He commanded the respect and love of his people, and for one after their own heart. But I more than suspect that the old man has had his head and heart and his address to-day was a classic in economics, an epitome of history, and a thing of power. He was the mouth to an inspired ancient or modern prophet. TO READ THAT ADDRESS WILL BE TO TAKE A COURSE IN POLITICAL ECONOMY.

"James Duncan were to wear a black frock coat and a white tie and to be a dignity in fitting garb, I would never be taken as the representative of the churches at the convention, and a review to-day of his recent trip abroad was a masterpiece of serious statesmanship, of broad vision, and broad views and keen discernment.

"John Mitchell has grown still abyer during a year, when he has grown to be a bigger man than ever in the estimation of the fellows and of the world at large, because he has gone through the crucible at a severe test of loyalty.

"If I were to go back to the local pastorate again, I would like to be called to the Presbyterian Church at Bloomington, Ill., where Lincoln worshiped, and be the senior deacon to keep me in the straight and narrow way.

"Why is it that all our moral leaders do not see that in the American labor movement is the most powerful and proven economic machinery, the most gigantic economic force of any day or generation, we have, in the midst of our every-day struggles, the most powerful force for safety value, one great conserving, constructive social agency, one that is the hope of the many clamoring tongues, so many of which—

"Like infants crying in the night,
Like infants crying for the light,
And with no language but a cry,

one great evolutionary force that is more than anything else, bringing order out of chaos, because it mingles light with heat and nerves not only the brain but the heart to strain. My profound belief is that, far more than they know, these men hold the destinies of human social order.

"You can readily see, gentlemen, that my utterances need to be somewhat restrained, and that I am not, at least in an ideal sense, I commit by them a constituency of 100,000 churches and 10,000 men and women, and the utterances which I am now to make are not without responsibility to them."

Now compare that statement with the circular, the protest bearing your name, and the circular letter issued by Mr. Macfarland, and then compare it again with Dr. Paul Kellogg's article in the Survey.

You should be and are ashamed of yourselves, and you will have cause to be for this place of stupidity and arrogance.

Very truly yours,

Samuel Gompers.

President American Federation of Labor.

THE USUAL RESULT

Duluth, Minn., Jan. 11.—The case of Paul Golik, an Austrian laborer, who, some months ago, secured judgment in the sum of $1,253.30 for personal injuries sustained by him, is one of a couple of the thousands of cases throughout the country where justice is completed only after a test in the courts for personal injury damages against employers. For injuries received by the workman referred to were of such a nature as to leave a life-long cripple. By the machinations of the attorneys for the defendant, the case of the litigation, since the injury, which occurred in 1909, have absorbed the entire amount of the damages awarded, and to-day Golik is without a cent and dependent on charity. This case is only an incident of the thousands of personal injury cases which wind up in the same manner and leave the injured workman without any relief. The facts argue with great force for the establishment in each State of a compulsory workmen's compensation law.

FIGHTING LABOR.

Duluth, Minn., Jan. 11.—The Minnesota Employers' Association has been distributing the false purpose of discrediting the efforts of organized labor to secure from the Legislature of Minnesota legislation in the interest of the laboring people of the State. The State Federation of Labor has campaigned, pursuant to instructions, interrogated every candidate for the legislature as to his attitude on labor laws to be introduced at the coming session. A large number of candidates for the legislature positions proclaimed their entire harmony with the suggested legislation. Owing to this fact, the employers are using every means at their command to thwart the efforts of the State Federation to secure needful legislation.

ORDERS CUT IN WAGES.

Denver, Jan. 11.—The city administration has ordered a cut of 10 per cent in all city employes' wages. It is understood that it is the policy of the Mayor to carry out a so-called programme of strict economy. The authors and those who champion the cut of 10 per cent are not affected as their salaries are fixed by the city charter. The local central body has taken action opposing this reduction, and a committee appointed to entered against the reduction of the salaries or wages of those who can least afford it.

POWDER MAKERS ORGANIZE.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 11.—A local union of powder makers has recently organized and every employe at the local plant a member. After organization was completed negotiations were entered into to secure an increase in wages and shorter hours. After a series of conferences with the management of the mill an agreement was entered into covering hours, wages and conditions of employment to run for a period of three years. The employes formerly worked twelve hours under the new agreement, but the new agreement calls for the eight-hour day. An increase in wages was also secured.

CHILD LABOR BILL.

New York, Jan. 11.—The National Child Labor Committee in this city has been circularizing the clergymen throughout the country, asking that occupiers of pulpits devote their sermons on January 25 or 26 to the subject of "child labor day." This campaign has been carried on for a number of years. This year special attention is called by the committee to child labor in tenement house manufacturing. Clergymen are also reminded that child laborers become unskilled adult workers, recounting that the Chicago vice commission gives this as the second greatest cause why 40,000 girls are sacrificed annually to an immoral life.

"KISS OF DEATH" SHUTTLE.

New Bedford, Mass., Jan. 11.—Vigorous demands are being made upon the Attorney-General of this State for the enforcement of the "anti-kiss-of-death" law and the mill owners are fighting for a still further extension of time on the pretext that no practical hand threading shuttle can be secured to take its place. The use of this shuttle is a frequent cause of tubercular troubles. The so-called "kiss of death" comes in the threaded only by drawing the thread through the eye by the suction of the breath.

GET SATURDAY HALF HOLIDAY.

Minneapolis, Jan. 11.—Beginning with the first Saturday of January, 1913, members of the Retail Clerks' Union, in this city, began the enjoyment of the Saturday half holiday. This is the last large city in the State to secure this boon, St. Paul and Duluth having had the Saturday half holiday for a long time.

IMMIGRATION CONFERREES

Washington, Jan. 11.—The conferees on the Senate and House immigration bills are Senators Lodge, Dillingham, and Smith, and Representatives Burnett, Sabath, and Gardner. The question of most importance for the conferees to solve is the literacy test in the bill passed by the House, the Senate bill eliminating that provision.

BILL TO WRAP BREAD.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Senator McCumber of North Dakota, has introduced a bill in the Senate requiring all bread sold in the District of Columbia to be wrapped. This measure provides that persons, firms, or corporations engaged in the manufacture of bread, before delivering the same from the bakery, inclose it in a suitable sanitary wrapper or package that will protect it from dust, insects, or other contaminations. The proposed measure also makes it unlawful for a dealer or other persons to sell or deliver bread which has not been properly wrapped, and for a violation of which offense is a fine not to exceed $100 or imprisonment not to exceed three months or both.

DRAFTING COMPENSATION LAW.

Waco, Jan. 11.—A conference of the legislative committee and other representative members of the Texas State Federation of Labor has been held. The purpose of this conference was to draft a tentative bill for workmen's compensation, to be introduced in the coming session of the legislature. The salient provisions contained in the compensation laws of the States where compensation laws are in force have been incorporated, with changes suggested by defects developed in the actual administration of them.

GARMENT WORKERS' STRIKE.

New York, Jan. 11.—There are on strike in this city approximately 110,000 garment workers, or approximately 85 per cent of the workers in this class of the trade. Negotiations are in progress looking toward a settlement, but nothing definite has yet transpired. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is also taking a referendum strike vote of all employers in the dress industry who want to be tied up. It is likely that if a settlement is not procured in the immediate future, between 20,000 and 30,000 employes in the latter trade will also strike.

FAVOR BOOHER BILL.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The subcommittee of the House judiciary committee having in charge the Booher convict labor bill, came to a favorable decision on the measure in the full House Judiciary Committee in the near future. This bill provides that States can adopt prohibitive measures in regard to what articles convict-made goods into States where laws prohibit such shipments.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The regular quarterly meeting of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor will convene in Washington on January 28.

FIGHT FOR ORGANIZATION.

Aurora, Ill., Jan. 11.—Recently the local Machinists' Union commenced an organizing campaign among the machinists employed outside the railroad shops. Success attended their efforts. The Aurora Automatic Machinery Company and Aeration Machine Company agreed to the demands made upon them by the Federation. President Gompers states in succinct and clear language his attitude in the premises. The letter follows:

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"Old Samuel Gompers (the descriptive adjective, Mr. President, is in the nature of a term of affection, and relates to your length of service rather than to the number of your years), who has been for years, and has been the leading actor in the Old Testament story of the Prophet Daniel, that story would have been the same. He commanded the respect and love of his people, and for one after their own heart. But I more than suspect that the old man has had his head and heart and his address to-day was a classic in economics, an epitome of history, and a thing of power. He was the mouth to an inspired ancient or modern prophet. TO READ THAT ADDRESS WILL BE TO TAKE A COURSE IN POLITICAL ECONOMY.

"James Duncan were to wear a black frock coat and a white tie and to be a dignity in fitting garb, I would never be taken as the representative of the churches at the convention, and a review to-day of his recent trip abroad was a masterpiece of serious statesmanship, of broad vision, and broad views and keen discernment.

"John Mitchell has grown still abyer during a year, when he has grown to be a bigger man than ever in the estimation of the fellows and of the world at large, because he has gone through the crucible at a severe test of loyalty.

"If I were to go back to the local pastorate again, I would like to be called to the Presbyterian Church at Bloomington, Ill., where Lincoln worshiped, and be the senior deacon to keep me in the straight and narrow way.

"Why is it that all our moral leaders do not see that in the American labor movement is the most powerful and proven economic machinery, the most gigantic economic force of any day or generation, we have, in the midst of our every-day struggles, the most powerful force for safety value, one great conserving, constructive social agency, one that is the hope of the many clamoring tongues, so many of which—

"Like infants crying in the night,
Like infants crying for the light,
And with no language but a cry,

one great evolutionary force that is more than anything else, bringing order out of chaos, because it mingles light with heat and nerves not only the brain but the heart to strain. My profound belief is that, far more than they know, these men hold the destinies of human social order.

"You can readily see, gentlemen, that my utterances need to be somewhat restrained, and that I am not, at least in an ideal sense, I commit by them a constituency of 100,000 churches and 10,000 men and women, and the utterances which I am now to make are not without responsibility to them."

Now compare that statement with the circular, the protest bearing your name, and the circular letter issued by Mr. Macfarland, and then compare it again with Dr. Paul Kellogg's article in the Survey.

You should be and are ashamed of yourselves, and you will have cause to be for this place of stupidity and arrogance.

Very truly yours,

Samuel Gompers.

President American Federation of Labor.

WIN STRIKE QUICKLY.

Everett, Wash., Jan. 11.—One of the most successful strikes has just reached a conclusion in this city. The local electrical workers' union of Everett, demanding with the contractors for an increase in wages up to a point whereby the higher grade of living might be met with an adequate wage. These negotiations were not successful, and the strike was declared, which lasted only a short time, when practically all the shops acceded to the demands in a week's one, but the application was granted only to the union shops and the same. The organization is being maintained, and a stiff contest is on.

BREWERY WORKERS' ELECTION.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The official vote in the election of international officers of the Brewery Workers' Union has just been given publicity, the following having been elected: International secretary treasurer, Joseph Huebsch; international corresponding secretary, Louis Kemper; international financial secretary, Joseph Proebstle; international organizer, Albert J. Kugler; editor Brewery Workers' Journal, Gustav Mostler.

VERDICT AGAINST RAILROAD.

New York, Jan. 11.—Richard P. Phelan, a brakeman, has secured a jury verdict of $30,000 against the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad for the loss of both legs. The attorneys for the railroad attempted to have the case thrown out of court on the ground that it was excessive, but this motion was denied. This is the largest verdict ever for the railroad brakeman to secure this verdict was obtained by the labor organizations of the State of New York.

WORK FOR PRINTERS.

Washington, Jan. 11.—To supply the country with information relative to crops and other commodities that come within the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, 2,119 different bulletins were issued during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1912. Of the various publications there were printed during the year 34,676,320 copies.

ABANDONS CONVICT LEASING.

Fort Worth, Tex., Jan. 11.—The Union Banner is authority for the statement that all leases for convict labor have either expired or contracts voluntarily abrogated, and it is felt certain that Texas will never again resort to placing convicts in competition with free labor.

MINIMUM WAGE BILL.

Duluth, Jan. 11.—The Minnesota State Federation of Labor has prepared a minimum wage bill to be introduced in the coming session of the State Legislature. The bill proposes to establish industrial boards to consist of members representing the employers, employes, and general public, each board to represent a given industry. The duties of these boards shall be to fix minimum rates of wages for women and children. It is proposed that the rates of wages shall not be fixed arbitrarily, but shall be established to safeguard in a reasonable degree the health and general welfare of women and minor workers. The club women of this city are favorable to the provisions of the bill and many of the members of the Legislature also are on record as being in favor of it.

BAR CHINESE RESTAURANTS.

Prince Albert, Canada Jan. 11.—As the result of the agitation of the Trades and Labor Council, followed by the action of the Board of Trade, all "white girls employed" in Chinese restaurants have been induced to quit their posts. The Labor Council is only newly formed and this is one of the first movements toward making it felt. Many objected strenuously, but the police commission approves the movement, being supported by the provincial law passed last session. The girls quit their jobs quietly, but the Chinese, not only of Prince Albert, but of the province are understood to be preparing to combat the law.

CONSTRUCTING SUBMARINES.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The Navy Department is preparing for the construction of eight submarines, and it is stated that the work will be divided between plants on the East and West coast. At the present time eight submarines are under construction on the West coast and seven on the East coast of the United States navy yards, at San Francisco, three at Seattle, four at Quincy, Mass., two at Bridgeport, Conn., and one at Philadelphia, Pa.

TROLLEY EMPLOYES STRIKE.

Yonkers, N. Y., Jan. 11.—The trolley men in this city, 300 in number, are still on strike against the Yonkers Railway Company. City officials have endeavored to secure an adjustment, but have failed. A bill has been urged to repeal the ordinance forbidding the insert and the company will be asked to grant it, but it is not believed this will be done. Not a single car is running, and the president of the Yonkers Railway has intimated the Mayor that as long as the prohibitive ordinance remains in force the service will not be restored. As to the adjustment of the difficulty at the present time is not in sight.

ADVOCATES BUREAU PENSIONS.

Washington, Jan. 11.—A system of pensions for infirm and superannuated employes of the Bureau of Insular Affairs is recommended by Frank McIntyre in his annual report of the work of the Bureau. He also vigorously recommends an increase in the salaries of employes.

FLORIDA STATE FEDERATION.

Lakeland, Fla., Jan. 11.—The thirteenth annual convention of the Florida State Federation will meet in this city beginning on January 14.

ARBITRATION CLOSED.

Chicago, Jan. 11.—The most important arbitration case that has ever held in this city closed recently, and the arbitration board is now considering the testimony adduced before the board. This case is next in magnitude to the great anthracite coal commission. Nearly 15,000 employes are involved on the surface street car lines of this city, and are involved directly. President Mahon, of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, presented his case in behalf of the street railroad men before the arbitration board in such an able manner as to elicit commendation from experts, not only from labor men in Chicago, but from the general public. It is well known that President Mahon is one of the best informed and most thoroughgoing trade unionists in the country. As his long experience and expert knowledge have recommended him as one of the brilliant officials, his handling of this case in not applicable within the boundary lines of America only, but overlaps it.

URGES DIRECT VOTE.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 11.—Gov. Sulzer's initial special message to the Legislature on January 6 urged the ratification of the constitutional amendment for the election of United States Senators by popular vote. "Personally," he said, "I think I can truthfully say that I was the author of the original resolution introduced in Congress providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people, which was offered by the late Thomas B. Reed drawled out: 'Young man, when you have been in public life as long as I have, you will find that your proposition will be as slow of locomotion as a fly in a molasses barrel.'"

GOES TO ARBITRATION.

Toronto, Canada, Jan. 11.—It is given out that President Chamberlain, of the Canadian Department of Labor, intends to arbitrate the wage question with the machinists employed on the system. A strike order was issued some time ago in the Transcona shops, and has been continued with the result noted. It is understood that the company will refuse to reinstate the strikers who apply for positions within thirty days, the present rate of wages to remain in force undisturbed until the decision of the arbitration board has been awarded.

CARPENTERS ACTIVE.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 11.—The United Brotherhood of Carpenters, during the month of November, 1912, issued charters to local unions in the following cities: Winnemucca, Nev.; Pompton Lakes, N. J.; West Point, Iowa; Boston, Mass.; Douglas, Ariz.; Morgan City, La.; Webster, Mass.; Paula Valley, Okla.; Somerville, Mass.; Murfreesboro, Ark.; Bluxol, Miss., and Santa Ana, Cal.

DARROW TRIAL POSTPONED.

Los Angeles, Jan. 11.—The second trial of Clarence Darrow, charged with alleged jury bribing, has been continued until January 20.